

PORTLAND HARBOR CAG
JULY 10, 2002
800 NE OREGON STREET
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Members Present:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance – St. Johns

Cathy Crawford – University Park

Larry Talbert – Hinoon

Business:

Chris Mongrain – NW Industrial Neighborhood Association

Steve Gunther – Progressive Products and Services

Recreation:

Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker – Sierra Club

Rhett Lawrence - OSPiRG

Public Health:

Travis Williams – Willamette Riverkeeper

Joe Keating – Oregon Center for Environmental Health

At Large:

Xander Patterson – East Multnomah SWCD

Ron Hernandez - Citizen

Jacque Day Calder - Citizen

Visitors:

M. J. Bey, League of Women Voters

Mark Burton, Citizen

Tom Chisholm, Citizen

Doug Polk, Linnton Neighborhood Association

Mark Stephan Washington State University - Vancouver

Katy Brooks, Port of Portland

Kim Cox, DEQ

Chip Humphrey, EPA Region 10

Wallace Reid, EPA Region 10

Georgia Richmond, Dept. of Human Services

Barbara Smith, Lower Willamette Group

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the June 5, 2002 were approved with corrections.

EPA PRESENTATION

Wallace Reid and Chip Humphrey from EPA Region 10 presented information about the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Their presentation included information concerning the following:

CERCLA; Listing and Superfund \$; Natural Resource Damages; Trustees for Portland Harbor; Superfund cleanup process; Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study; Current and Historic Site Activity; 1997 Sediment Investigation; Site Management; Environmental Goals; Public Health and Risk; Schedule and Contacts.

Reid and Humphrey stressed they are several years away from a Record of Decision which will determine the cleanup plan and that the potentially responsible parties who are now participating are funding the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study but that a larger group will be included in the cleanup. There was discussion about the ability of EPA to order parties to participate and questions about the current news that the Superfund program is out of federal money and how that might affect the Portland Harbor Cleanup. Questions were also raised about the boundaries of the cleanup and EPA commented that the Initial Study Area is current between River Miles 3.5 and 9.2 but that the boundaries may change according to what is discovered during the investigation. Sources were also discussed and EPA remarked that DEQ is working on a Source Control Strategy that will be completed later this summer. EPA explained that the RI/FS will focus on the sediments in the river and the water column has been and will continue to be examined under other water quality programs. Other discussion continued about concern that too much is being spent on the study; that it will be important to know what is going on upstream to ensure the solution will avoid recontamination; and that options for cleanup have not been determined but that dredging and capping are the two basic technologies now used at similar site.

Additional discussion was held on how the CAG can provide meaningful input to EPA. A copy of preliminary workplan for the site has been given to the Technical Assistant Grant recipient (Willamette Riverkeeper) and their consultant will be reviewing the plan and will provide assistance to the CAG to understand the plan and what it means to the community. Several members want the workplan to be available on a website or in electronic form when it is completed but before it is finalized by EPA. Some asked for an executive summary or outline to be prepared as well. EPA said it would work with the LWG to find ways to ensure the CAG receives information about the site to review. EPA suggested the CAG may want to review the Fish Sampling Plan that will be used this year and the group agreed that would be a good place to start. Willamette Riverkeeper will have their technical consultant come to the August meeting to report of her review of the documents and help the group determine how best to have input.

Reid and Humphrey listed the EPA contacts as:

Wallace Reid, (206) 553-1728 reid.Wallace@epa.gov

Chip Humphrey (503) 326-2678 humphrey.chip@epa.gov

Tara Karamas (206) 553-0039 karamas.tara-ann@epa.gov

Judy Smith (206) 553-6246 smith.judy@epa.gov

CAG WORKPLAN

The group began discussions about ways to establish its own workplan to move forward. A special Education and Outreach committee will be formed to seek funding resources and make recommendations to the CAG about outreach efforts. The CAG will also begin the process of discussing bylaws for the group at its next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will consist of one hour of presentation by Regina Skarzinskas and one hour of discussion of the CAG Workplan.

It was determined that the ongoing meeting time for the CAG will be the second Wednesday of every month.

The next meeting will be:

AUGUST 14

6-8 P.M.

800 NE OREGON ST (SAME LOCATION)